[Dr. S. K. Pillai,]

The next item is for Rs. 1,870 for installing fire hydrants in the premises of the Development Office. This is very necessary to protect the buildings from fire.

The third item is for a sum of Rs. 500 spent in reclaiming a hydraulic hot press despatched in a German steamer from Germany. Before the steamer reached India, war was declared and the steamer took shelter at Padang, a neutral port. Government engaged Messrs. Cox & Kings Ltd., Bombay for the reclamation of the cargo. For reclaiming, for re-shipping and other charges, a sum of Rs. 500 was spent temporarily from other heads of the sanctioned budget. This expenditure has now to be made good. No provision was made in the budget as it was not known when the cargo would be released.

Thus a total sum of Rs. 3,870 is required for the Development department. I request the House to sanction the grant.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: Sir, I beg to move that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the audit and appropriation of the accounts of 1115 M. E., be taken up for consideration.

The following motion of which notice had been given, was not moved :

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : This Assembly recommends to Government that special steps may be taken for securing a close approximation of the expenditure to the final grant for P. W. Works.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I beg to move the following motion :

"*This Assembly recommends to Government that special steps may be taken for avoiding rush of expenditure in P. W. Works during the fourth quarter of a year.*"

The P. W. D. is one of the largest of the spending departments. The expenditure of the year should be spread over the whole year. From the reports for 1113, 1114 and 1115 we find that there is a rush of expenditure and heavy payments in the month of Karkadagam every year. Government passed orders that a certain proportion must be spent every quarter ; 15 per cent in the first quarter, 25 per cent in the second quarter and 35 per cent in the third quarter. This proportion is followed in Mysore also. It is regretable to note that this order is not being adhered to.

From page 5 of the report we find that there is a rush of expenditure in the fourth quarter. Just to avoid this rush of expenditure I am making this motion. If there is a rush of expenditure there is a chance for the Division Officers to swindle money from the contractor. I know as a matter of fact that many Division Officers do swindle money. I am not required to give their names though I can do so.

PRESIDENT: Order, Order. I must deprecate that attitude on the part of my honourable friend and others. I don't know if honourable members have any duty more paramount than that of exposing

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iniqities and corruption wherever it exists. That duty is incumbent upon the members of this House and of the Legislature generally. If the honourable member knows of any such instances and has not communicated such knowledge to the Government, I think he should reflect over the position and in future at least should see to it that these suspicions are not bottled up and partially ventilated on the floor of the House If there is anything wrong, let the Government know and let us investigate it. I hope honourable members will take my remarks in the spirit in which I have offered them. I trust honourable members who have definite facts in their possession will place them before Government.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Even last year I have mentioned that this proportion was not adhered to.

PRESIDENT : I am not referring to the honourable member's remark about the rush of expenditure. What the honourable member has said about the rush expenditure in a particular month or two, that irregularities are bound to creep in is another thing I was referring to his remarks that there are many instances in which there has been corruption. I am hoping that if there is any knowledge in the minds of honourable members that would be imparted.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : With these words I move the motion.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED : മി. നാരായണപ്പെരുമാൾ നാടാർ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. അതു്, പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഉള്ളവരെല്ലാവരും കൈക്കൂലിക്കാരാണെന്നോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ, പണം അപഹരിക്കുന്നവരാണെന്നോ പറയുന്നതിനല്ല. പി. ഡബ്ളിയു. ഡി. അലാട്ട്മെൻറിൽ വലിയഭാഗവും ചെലവാകുന്നതു മെയിൻറനൻസിനാണു്. വെറും കൂലിക്കാരെ നിറുത്തി മസ്ദോരം ഏർപ്പാടനുസരിച്ചു ചെലവെഴുതി തള്ളുകയാണു് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. കൂലിക്കാരെനിറുത്തുകയൊ നിറ്ത്താതിരിക്കയൊ ചെയ്യട്ടെ;അതു സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുണ്ടു്. എങ്കിലും മനുഷ്യനാണൊ അവനു സ്വാഭാവികമായി പണത്തിനോടാശകാണും. എന്നിരുന്നാലും അപഹരണത്തിനും അഴിമതിക്കും പ്രേരണ കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ വർഷാവസാനത്തിലൊ മറെറാ ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ മാസംകൊണ്ടു് പണികഠം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കാൻ സൌകര്യം കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതു നല്ലതാണു്. മിക്കവാറും മഴക്കാലങ്ങളിൽ ആയിരിക്കും മെയിൻറനൻസ് വർക്കുകൾ അധികവും ചെയ്യാനുള്ള സൌകര്യം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് വർഷാവസാനത്തിലും ഈ പണികഠം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമുണ്ടു്. ചിങ്ങം, കന്നി, തുലാം, വൃശ്ചികം, മിഥുനം, കർക്കടകം ഈ മാസങ്ങളിൽ വേല ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും സൌകര്യമുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ, ഈ നി

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[Mr. P. S. Muhamed.]

ലയിൽ രണ്ടു ഘട്ടങ്ങളിലായി വേല ചെയ്തു തീർക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചാൽ കൂടുതൽ അവസാനത്തിൽ ഒന്നിച്ചു ചെലവെഴുതേണ്ടുന്ന ആവശ്യം വരികയില്ല. പക്ഷെ പ്രലോഭനങ്ങൾക്കൊന്നിനും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അധീനരാകാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു മേൽപറഞ്ഞ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ വേലചെയ്യുന്നതിനു നിർബന്ധിക്കുന്നതു യോഗ്യമായിരിക്കും.

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN : തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ ചെലവു വരുന്നവയിൽ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണു പി. ഡബ്ളിയു. ഡി. അതിലുള്ള ആളുകൾ എല്ലാം കൈക്കൂലിക്കാരാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിൽ പണം ലാപ്സായിപോകുന്നതു് ഗവർമെൻറിൻെറ നിയന്ത്രണശേഷിക്കുറവാണു്. ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും വളരെ നിസ്സാരമായ പണികളാണു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ആണ്ടവസാനിക്കുമ്പോൾ ബാക്കിയുള്ള പണികളെല്ലാം കൂടി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു സമയം ഇല്ലാതെവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഒടുവിൽ പണം ഒന്നിച്ചു് ചെലവാക്കുന്നതെന്നുതോന്നുന്നു. അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണം അതാതു മാസത്തിൽ ക്രമമായി ചെലവു ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു പരാതി ഉണ്ടാവുകയില്ല. പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ സാധുക്കളുടെ സംരക്ഷണാർത്ഥം വളരെ ജോലി ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ചെയ്യിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു. എന്നാൽ ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ റോഡുകളിലൊഴികെ ബാക്കിയുള്ളിടത്തു യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതു് അവിടെ ഇരിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അശ്രദ്ധ കൊണ്ടാണെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു.

ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും രഹസ്യമായ ചില ആർഡറുകൾ അതായതു്, തൽക്കാലം പണികളെല്ലാം നിറുത്തിവച്ചേക്കണമെന്നു, കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ധാരണയാണു അവിടെ പലർക്കും ഉള്ളതു്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അപ്രകാരം പറഞ്ഞുപരത്തുന്നു. ഉദാഹരണമായി അവിടെ ശ്രീചിത്തിരതിരുനാൾ റോഡിൽ അനവധി കൂലിക്കാർ ദിവസേന നിന്നു വേലചെയ്യുന്ന പതിവുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അതൊക്കെ നിറുത്തിവച്ചു. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതു് ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ആർഡർവന്നിട്ടാണെന്നു സൂപ്രണ്ടുവൈസറന്മാരും സെക്ഷൻ ആഫീസറന്മാരും മേസ്തിരിമാരും പറയുന്നു. എക്സിക്യൂട്ടിവു എൻജിനീയർ അതു് പറയുന്നില്ല. ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾ പറവൂർ വന്നപ്പോൾ അവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾ കണ്ടറിഞ്ഞിട്ടാണു് ഈ റോഡു് പണിആരംഭിച്ചതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ അതിൻെറ പണി നിറുത്തിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

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MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ജോലി ചെയ്തവക്ക് കൂലി കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ ?

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN: പറയാം. നെയ്യാറ്റിങ്കര-മൂത്തകുന്നം റോഡിൽ ജോലിചെയ്യുന്നവക്ക് കൂലി കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു ബഹളം കൂട്ടി. ഒടുവിൽ ഒരു മാസത്തേക്കുള്ള കൂലി കൊടുത്തു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും പണം അനുവദിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നാണ് പറയുന്നത്. അവർ കൂലി കിട്ടാതെ വിഷമിക്കുന്നു. അതിനു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കണം. ദിവസവും കൂലി കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആർഡർ എന്നറിയുന്നു. ഇന്നത്തേപ്പോലെ ഉൗർജസ്വലനായ ഒരു ദിവാൻജി ഭരിക്കുന്ന രാജ്യത്തു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ വടക്കേ അറ്റത്തെ താലൂക്കുകാരായ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് ഈ നിലയിലുള്ള അനുഭവം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു് സങ്കടകരമാണു്. ആ കൂലിക്കാരുടെ കഷ്ടസ്ഥിതി ഞാൻ നേരിട്ടു കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ആ താലൂക്കിൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാ പണികളും ഈ ആണ്ടിൽതന്നെ തീർക്കുമെങ്കിൽ അവിടെയുള്ള സാധുക്കൾക്കു രക്ഷ കിട്ടും.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: മി. നാടാരുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാനും അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

പി. ഡബ്ല്യു. ഡി. യിൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണമെല്ലാം അവസാനകപ്പാർട്ടറിലാണു അനുവദിക്കുന്നതു്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലം ഞാൻ കാർ പലയിടത്തും സഞ്ചരിച്ചു് അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള ജോലികൾ ഏതെല്ലാമെന്നു കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറു കുറെയൊക്കെ പണം അനുവദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. എന്നാൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണികളൊന്നും ഇതുവരെ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടില്ല. ബഡ്ജറു വരട്ടെ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു കുറെനാൾ അങ്ങിനെ കഴിക്കും, അതിനുശേഷവും പണി തുടങ്ങാതിരിക്കുന്നതെന്തുകൊണ്ടെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല

MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAY: ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർ നിഷ്കർഷിച്ചാൽ ഇതു നടപ്പിൽ വരികയില്ലയോ ?

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: നിശ്ചയമായും വരും. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെറുപ്പു തോന്നാൻ ഇടയാകും അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർതന്നെ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. ചീഫ് എൻജിനീർ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ

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[Mr. K. P. Kochukora Tharakan.]

ഗവണ്മെറിൽനിന്നു വേണ്ടപോലെ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയരെ ക്കൊണ്ടു നിഷ്കർഷിപ്പിക്കണം. ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തേക്ക് പത്തുലക്ഷം രൂപ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആയതു ലാപ്സാകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു എന്തു വിശേഷമാണുള്ളതു് ? പണം എത്ര കുറച്ചനുവദിച്ചാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. അനുവദിക്കുന്നതു മുഴുവൻ ചെലവാക്കണം. വൻപിച്ച ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണ് ഇതു്. സ്ഥിരം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടു്. പോരെങ്കിൽ ടെമ്പൊറെറി എസ്റ്റാബ്ലിഷ്മെൻറ് എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യ ചെലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. കുന്നത്തുനാട്ടു താലൂക്കിൽ പതിനായിരം രൂപായുടെ വേല ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആയിരം രൂപായുടെ ചെലവായിരിക്കും ഒടുവിൽ ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇൻസ്പെക്ഷൻ വളരെ മോശമായിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. അതിനാൽ ബഡ്ജറിൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വേല മുഴുവൻ ഒരു മാസത്തിനകം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതാണു്. ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു മടി കാണിക്കാത്തതുപോലെ ജോലി ചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതിലും ജാഗ്രത കാണിക്കണം.

ചീഫ്സെക്രട്ടറി പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ വന്നതിൻറെ ഫലമായി അവിടത്തെ സാധുക്കളുടെ രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗമായി ഒരു വേല കിട്ടി. നാലു ദിവസമായി അവർക്കു കൂലി കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ എന്തുരക്ഷയാണു് അവർക്കുള്ളതു് ? ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ജോലി ചെയ്യിക്കുന്ന സെക്ഷൻ ആഫീസർമാർക്കും ചില പ്രത്യേക അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ചിലയിടങ്ങളിൽ ബഹളമുണ്ടാകുന്നു. വൈക്കത്തുതന്നെ വലിയ ബഹളം ഉണ്ടായി. തല്ലും ഉണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ മൈവാധീനംകൊണ്ടു് ഇവിടെ അതൊന്നും ഉണ്ടായില്ല. ഏതിനും കമ്മിഷൻ, കമ്മിഷനുമേൽ കമ്മിഷൻ; വേലക്കാർ ജോലിചെയ്തുകൊള്ളണം. കൂലി കിട്ടുകയില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു നടപ്പു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പി. ഡബ്ളിയു. ഡി. യിൽ മാത്രമെയുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അനുവദിക്കുന്ന പണം മൂന്നു മാസത്തിനകം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താത്തപക്ഷം, പണം ലാപ്സായി കളയുന്നതിനു് ഗവർമെൻറും ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു എന്നേ ജനങ്ങൾ ധരിക്കുകയുള്ളു.

PRESIDENT: The motion before the House is that "This Assembly recommends to Government that special steps may be taken for avoiding rush of expenditure in P. W. Works during the fourth quarter of the year".

The motion was put to vote and declared carried.

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The following Motion of which notice was given, was not moved :—

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : This Assembly recommends to Government that special steps may be taken for avoiding the repeated rush of expenditure in Nagercoil P. W. Division during thelfourth quarter of the year.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : As I have become tired of moving resolutions on the report of the Public Accounts Committee, this year I did not think it necessary to table any resolution on the report under discussion. Therefore I would formally rise to oppose the consideration of the Public Accounts Committee report and in doing so I wish to make a few observations.

Sir, when we approach the question of the consideration of the report of the Public Accounts Committee, we should have a clean idea of the powers and responsibilities of that committee in order to decide whether the committee has discharged its duties satisfactorily and whether the report that has been presented to us deserves our consideration.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Under Rule 14 it is provided that

> "the Financial Secretary shall move on such day as may be fixed by the Dewan that the report of the Committee be taken into consideration. The Chamber concerned shall thereupon be at liberty to discuss the report for such time as may be allotted by the Dewan and, during that time, to make any additional recommendations in connection therewith. Such recommendations shall be in the form of resolutions ; and the stage at which and the order in which each such resolution shall be moved and discussed shall be determined by the President having regard to all the circumstances".

So it is only in that form that this report can be discussed. The member having failed to send up any resolution in the form in which resolutions have to sent up, I think that it would be a roving discussion that the member can have, say on some matters which have either been included or which in the opinion of the member ought to have been included. The Financial Secretary merely moved that the report of the Public Accounts Committee be taken up for consideration. If discussion has to be useful, the House has to resolve and that resolution has to be embodied in the form in which resolutions are usually embodied. The member is out of order. In any case he cannot move that the report must be rejected.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : There is no provision here, but I believe no provision is required to oppose a motion. The Financial Secretary has made a motion and I think it is within the right of any honourable member of this House to oppose it if he so desires.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : What is the motion ?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : The motion is that the report of the committee be taken up for consideration. Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai has opposed it. It is absolutely within his right to oppose the motion. The Rule says : " The Chamber concerned shall thereupon be at liberty to discuss the report for such time as may be

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[Mr. Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai.]

allowed by the Dewan, and, during that time, to make any additional recommendations in connection therewith. Such recommendations shall be in the form of resolutions." So the rule refers only to recommendations and not to resolutions.

PRESIDENT: The whole matter is concluded by the Rulings. If honourable members will turn to page 216 of the Selections from the Rulings from the Chair, they will see that the President has made the following statement :—

> "The Financial Secretary will now present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee and move that it be taken into consideration. This is the first time that this House has been called upon to exercise the privilege of discussing the Public Accounts Committee Report and it will be useful to enlighten the House on the procedure that is to be followed for this debate.
>
> "The Financial Secretary's motion need not be seconded as it is not a real substantive motion, but only a formal device for initiating a discussion on the Report before the House. Notice has been given of two resolutions and they too need not be seconded. The resolutions will be put to vote at the conclusion of the debate; but following the practice in the Legislative Assemby, the motion made by the Financial Secretary will not be put to the vote of the House. Under Rule 14 of the Public Accounts Committee (supplemental) Rules, I had allotted for the purpose the time that would have been left over yesterday after the discussion of the demands for supplementary grants. But the whole day having been taken up by the demands for supplementary grants, I have allowed debate on the Public Accounts Committee Report before official legislative business is taken up.
>
> "The debate on the motion of the Financial Secretary and debate on the two resolutions, when moved will proceed together. The members can speak on the Report generally and those members who have given notice of resolutions may also make general observations on the Report and move the resolutions. As the full one hour has been taken up by questions and answers, the time available to-day is only 2½ hours, as the adjournment motion comes up at 3-30 in the afternoon. The House can use all the 2½ hourse for the debate, and the official legislative business posted for the day will come up to-morrow. To enable as many members as possible to participate in the debate, a maximum of ten minutes will be allowed to every member, including those who move resolutions."

Therefore the Ruling of the Chair on this point may be thus summarised. Although the expression used is that the report shall be placed for consideration before the House, it is not placed as an ordinary resolution which will have to undergo the fate of being voted upon. In other words the House cannot decline the consideration of the report. It is not regarded as one in which the actual voting procedure is considered appropriate and therefore it is neither incumbent

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nor is it appropriate for Mr. Velayudhan Pillai to say that he opposes the consideration of the report. The report will be discussed for such time as the Dewan-President may allow. I allow an hour for discussion of this report and five or seven minutes for each member to speak on the report.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Generally we were given half a day for the discussion of the report.

PRESIDENT: I have absolutely no objection to extending the time. If honourable members want more time, I have no objection to allow them the whole of the afternoon. If they will take two hours I will give each member ten minutes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: The Public Accounts Committee is a statutory body. It is empowered to scrutinise the Audit Report and the Appropriation Accounts, with regard to the 5 items in particular under Rule 11 of the Public Accounts Committtee, Supplementary Rules. This is of course a difficult task involving considerable amount of labour and time. The Committee may also examine the Secretary to Government and the Head of the Department concerned or any Government officer as a witness for the purpose of elucidation or explanation on any matter contained in the report. On the 11th August 1938, the Dewan-President of the Public Accounts Committee has ruled that the Committee can send in a series of questions and that the questions and their answers will be placed on the table or given to the members to facilitate further discussion. It is seen that 3 days were set apart for the consideration by the Public Accounts Committee of the Audit Report and the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1112. Such being the case, let us consider the nature of the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts for the year 1114. At the outset, I am constrained to observe that it is a most disappointing report and that it evidently proves the disrespect shown to the Legislature both by the Public Accounts Committee and the Government. The honourable members may question me why I ventured to make this remark. The Report to the Audit and Appropriation of accounts for the year 1114 consists of 189 pages. For scrutinising such a voluminous report the honourable members may be astonished to find that the Public Accounts Committee took only 20 minutes to finish off the whole work.

PRESIDENT: To whose particular effort was that shortness or brevity due?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I submit that it was a dereliction of duty on the part of the Committee which has not considered the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts in a satisfactory and responsible manner.

PRESIDENT: It may also be that the Committee was so much stisfied with the report that they thought that it need not be dealt with in detail.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I submit that my impression is otherwise; the wonder of it is that the time fixed by Government for the consideration of the Audit and Appropriation Report by the Public Accounts Committee was 5-15 P. M., that is towards the fag-end of a busy day. The Committee closed its sitting at 5-35 P. M.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Had they not tea in the meanwhile?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: They might have had very many things in the meanwhile. Then again if Government had thought it fit to set apart a convenient time for the consideration of the Audit and Appropriation Report by the Committee they would have dealt with it properly.

PRESIDENT: It is rather a serious business. I am asking the Chief Secretary whether there was any pressure brought to bear upon the members of the Committee to finish the work within so short a time, and whether he fixed the time and gave any indication to the honourable members to finish the work within that time. Mr. Sundararajan, what have you to say?

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN (*Financial Secretary to Government*): After we have considered the report of 1113 we were very anxious that the report for 1114 should be presented before the year 1115 actually closed. Therefore we were anxious to fix the meeting before the end of the year. It does not mean that the proceedings were meant to be finished on the very same day.

PRESIDENT: That is alright.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, my submission is that the Committee did not realise the responsibility entrusted to them in the matter of consideration of the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1114 and that the report submitted by them to this House for its consideration is most disappointing and unsatisfactory.

Then, Sir, another sad feature of the Report is that, out of the six members including the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, only three members were present for the sitting of the Committee. And out of the three non-official members only one honourable member thought it necessary to be present on the occasion.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Was any member from this House present?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I do not wish to mention names of honourable members who were not present at the time of the sitting of the Committee. But my submission is that it is rather disappointing to find that the committee has not bestowed sufficient and proper attention in the matter of consideration of the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1114. And now we are asked to consider such a report which if I may say so, is an absolutely useless andho peless report.

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Then again, Sir, coming to the facts contained in the report of the Committee, I am really sorry to find that the items of unnecessary supplementary grants during the year were on the increase. Paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report read thus:

"17. A list of items under which Supplementary Grants obtained from the Legislature or additional expenditure authorised by Government under Section 32 of Act II of 1108, turned out to be wholly unnecessary, the original grants themselves accommodating the entire expenditure of the year, is given on pages 59 and 60 of the Report. The number of such items shows an increase as compared with the previous year, being 10 as against 4 only in 1113.

18. Other cases of defective control such as excessive Supplementary Grants, in judicious reappropriation or surrender of funds, non-surrender of funds etc., are set forth on pages 62 and 63 and all these instances indicate that the departmental officers were not sufficiently in touch with the progress of expenditure from time to time."

I would also read from paragraph 73 of the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts of 1114 which is as follows:—

"The increase in the percentage of variation shows a deterioration in the control of expenditure during 1114 as compared with the preceding year, and points to the need for improvement in the control of expenditure as a whole."

Sir, for the last 8 years I have been complaining about the system of obtaining unnecessary grants and I am really sorry to find here that there is absolutely no improvement in the situation as is shown in the report of the Public Accounts Committee namely that instances of obtaining such unnecessary supplementary grants are on the increase.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Does not this show that the report was very minutely scrutinised by the Committee members?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Even without much scrutiny this could be easily shown in the report as it is plainly stated in the Audit Report itself. They have simply taken that portion from the Audit Report and inserted it in their report.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: That shows they have gone through the report in detail to enable them which portion should be taken and inserted in their report.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: So my submission is that the report should not be accepted by this House.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Is it because that of the three non-official members only one was present in the Committee or is it because that the Committee sat to consider the report after 5·15 P. M?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: It is because that the report is unsatisfactory and disappointing.

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MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: As a member of the Committee a word of personal explanation is due from me. Notice of the meeting was given to us during the Budget session and the meeting was arranged to be held after the business of the last day of the Budget session, and I had to hurry myself to Quilon ....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Why this postmortem examination of the circumstances under which meetings were held or not held ?

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I wanted to show that it was not a dereliction of duty so far as I am concerned but it was a sense of duty.

PRESIDENT: Granted that honourable members did their duty in full responsibility, no further justification is needed.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: Sir, apart from the time taken up by the Committee for the discussion of the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts I find from Appendix B, page 172 of the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts that there are 50 cases of misappropriation of Government funds. And I find that most of these happened in the Land Revenue Department which seems to monopolise the misappropriation of Government money, Out of these 50 cases 17 are from that Department, 2 from the Excise, 3 from Administration of Justice and about 4 or 5 from the Education Department, and the rest is distributed among other Departments.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: What about the Anchal Department ?

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: I find that there are 5 cases in the Anchal Department. Sir, my only wonder is that the punishment meted out to the different officers are different though the offence is the same. In the case of the Land Revenue Department in certain cases the culprit was asked to refund the amount misappropriated and no other punishment was given ; but in some other departments like the Anchal Department, one or two men were dismissed from service and in other cases the delinquents were suspended. I should like to know why this differentiation is adopted in the matter of giving punishments to crimes of the same nature.

PRESIDENT: Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak?

(No honourable member rose to speak.)

PRESIDENT: The House has evidently considered the report sufficiently according to its judgment. Now we shall proceed to the next item in the agenda.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE TRAVANCORE MAINTENANCE ORDERS ENFORCEMENT BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, the Travancore Maintenance Orders Enforcement Bill was presented some time back and it was pending consideration with the Select Committee. It was not possible to make any motion regarding this owing to certain difficulties in

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